



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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Preparedness and Planning

American Sign Language Translation of the OPHP Emergency Preparedness Booklet

The Division on Health and Hand of Hearing at the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, in partnership with the Office of Public Health Preparedness, developed a DVD containing an American Sign Language translation of the "Preparing for a Public Health Emergency" booklet. The video provides a link to emergency preparedness information for the deaf and hard of hearing community. The video is available [online](#).

Emergency Use Authorizations

The US Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is a critical new tool for medical and public health communities and is applicable for both civilian and military use. It fills the need for timely and practical medical treatment under emergency conditions and authorizes use of the best product available for treatment or prevention when the relevant product has not already been approved or approved for this specific use by the US Food and Drug Administration. [This article](#) gives details on the genesis of the EUA, its requirements, its broad application to civilian and military populations, and its features of particular importance to physicians and public health officials.



Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

The new quarterly, peer-reviewed journal is the first comprehensive publication emphasizing public health preparedness and disaster response for all health care professionals. This journal is available [online](#).

Website Gives Guidance for Terrorism in Buildings

This award-winning [website](#) is intended for emergency personnel and for building operators. It contains advice for dealing with a biological or chemical release in a building. It will be updated as advice changes. The advice on this site is appropriate for small and medium-sized releases such as those that would be expected from a terrorist attack.

Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties oversees the implementation of Executive Order 13347, Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness, which was signed by President Bush in July 2004. This Executive Order is designed to ensure the safety and security of individuals with disabilities in all-hazard emergency and disaster situations. To this end, the Executive Order created an Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities. The ICC is comprised of senior leadership from more than 20 federal departments and agencies. Its mission is to ensure that people with disabilities and their specific needs are fully

News

September Is National Preparedness Month

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will sponsor the fourth annual [National Preparedness Month](#) this September and encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. This year's effort has a growing coalition of more than 625 national, regional, state, and local organizations pledging support.

MDCH FluBytes

This [weekly update](#) from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) gives you all the latest information on influenza surveillance in Michigan.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue:
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integrated into all aspects of our nation's emergency management system; including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The Secretary of Homeland Security is the Chair of the ICC, and he has delegated that role to Mr. Daniel Sutherland, the DHS Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. The Council has concentrated its work in eight major areas:

- (1) Emergency Communications;
- (2) Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace;
- (3) Emergency Transportation;
- (4) Health;
- (5) Private Sector Coordination;
- (6) Research;
- (7) State, Local and Tribal Government Coordination; and
- (8) Technical Assistance and Outreach.

WHO International Health Regulations Effective

On June 15, [International Health Regulations](#) became effective, marking a public health landmark for the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Member States. The global community has a new legal framework to better manage its collective defenses against acute public health risks that can spread internationally and have devastating impacts on human health as well as unnecessary negative interference on trade and travel.

Public Health Advisory Board Established

On June 19, HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced the establishment of a public health advisory panel concerned with chemical, biological, nuclear or radiological agents. The [National Biodefense Science Board](#) will give the Secretary guidance on preventing, preparing for, and responding to release of such agents, whether they are naturally occurring, accidental, or deliberate.

US Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Operations Website

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers emergency management mission is to fully prepare for and effectively respond to natural and national emergencies. To successfully prepare for and respond to emergencies, the Corps relies upon our internal and external Emergency Management "Communities of Practice" partners. The [Emergency Response Portal](#) is a tool for sharing information and communicating with this community.

Registration of Traveler Emergency Contact and Itinerary Information

Several airlines have registration processes that allow travelers to provide their contact information, emergency contact/next-of-kin information, and travel itinerary information in case of an emergency. Additionally, the U.S. State Department provides a free [travel registration service](#) to U.S. citizens



who are traveling or living in another country. Registration allows a traveler to record information about his or her upcoming trip abroad that the Department of State can use

to assist in case of an emergency. Americans residing abroad can also get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Interim Final Rule for Chemical Facilities

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released an [interim final rule](#) that imposes comprehensive federal security regulations for high-risk chemical facilities. This rule establishes risk-based performance standards for the security of our Nation's chemical facilities. It requires covered chemical facilities to

- prepare Security Vulnerability Assessments, which identify facility security vulnerabilities, and to

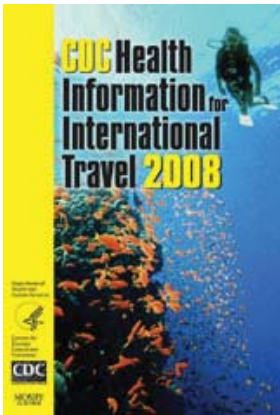
- develop and implement Site Security Plans, which include measures that satisfy the identified risk-based performance standards.

Preparedness Needs A New Message

Fear is a common motivator used by business and government to encourage people to “Get Prepared” for a disaster, natural or man-made. [This report](#) offers suggestions on how to rethink disaster preparedness messages.

Closed Dispensing Site Workbook for Businesses

The workbook, developed by Kansas City Public Health, introduces a very critical component to protecting the health and safety of businesses — providing them with the background and the “know-how” to become a Closed Dispensing Site. The [workbook](#) will answer key questions about Closed Dispensing Sites, empowering agencies to fully develop a program jointly with their local public health agency. This workbook is not a complete plan, but rather a key reference document to help businesses begin the planning process, working with their local public health agency to develop a plan that’s just right for them. The workbook and [additional worksheets](#) can be accessed online.



CDC Releases Updated “Yellow Book” on International Travel

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released its biennial revision of the [“Yellow Book”](#), a health guide for international travel. The book describes travel-related infections and diseases endemic to each region. Changes in the latest edition include updates on recommended immunizations, developments in malaria treatment and prevention, advice for avoiding deep vein thrombosis while flying, and a section on avian influenza. The yellow-covered book, officially titled “CDC Health Information for International Travel 2007-2008,” is available free online or can be purchased in bookstores.

Will the Public Wait in Line for Medications during an Emergency?

A government public information officer asks the question of Peter Sandman, Risk Communication consultant, about whether or not people will be willing to wait in line for their medications during an emergency. Peter Sandman’s response is available [online](#).

HHS Announces \$896.7 Million for States’ Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response

On July 17, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Levitt [announced](#) HHS has released funding in support of public health preparedness and emergency response. This is to help sustain the ability for states to respond to public health emergencies.

Surveillance

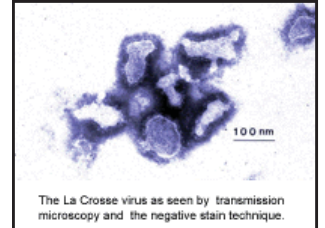
Influenza Prevention and Control

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) [2007 influenza recommendations](#) includes six principal changes or updates. First, ACIP reemphasizes the importance of administering two doses of vaccine to all children aged 6 months to 8 years if they have not been vaccinated previously at any time. ACIP recommends that children aged 6 months to 8 years who received only one dose in their first year of vaccination receive two doses the following year. ACIP reiterates a previous recommendation that all persons, including school-aged children, who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of

transmitting influenza to others, should be vaccinated. Immunization providers should offer influenza vaccine and schedule immunization clinics throughout the influenza season. ACIP recommends that health-care administrators consider the level of vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel (HCP) to be one measure of a patient safety quality program and implement policies to encourage HCP vaccination.

First Case of LaCrosse Virus Confirmed in Michigan

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has positively identified the state's first case of LaCrosse virus for 2007 in a Wayne County woman. The woman first showed symptoms of the LaCrosse virus in early June, was hospitalized, and has since been discharged. Like West Nile Virus (WNV), LaCrosse virus is a mosquito-borne viral infection that can cause encephalitis in humans. Children under the age of 16 are more susceptible to illness following infection with LaCrosse virus. Mosquitoes that transmit LaCrosse virus are typically found in woodland habitats, but they can breed in containers, and also have been associated with scrap tires.



Chili Sauce Possible Botulism Source

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers not to eat 10 ounce cans of Castleberry's Hot Dog Chili Sauce (UPC 3030000101), Austex Hot Dog Chili Sauce (UPC 3030099533), and Kroger Hot Dog Chili Sauce (UPC 1111083942) with "best by" dates from April 30, 2009 through May 22, 2009 due to possible botulism contamination. Consumers who have any of these products or any foods made with these products should throw them away immediately. Members of the public who have concerns should consult their local public health department.

Detroit Poison Control Center Awarded Grants to Evaluate/Enhance Surveillance

The Detroit Poison Control Center (PCC) recently applied for and was awarded three grants through the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC). These CDC-funded grants look to enhance toxicosurveillance at the regional level, evaluate the ability of the poison control data system to detect local events of public health significance, and evaluate the data quality at the national level. The Detroit PCC was awarded \$55,000 to fund their participation in these three projects. The Detroit PCC is partnering with the Michigan Department of Community Health on two of the three projects.

Pandemic

Gates Foundation May Help Fund Bird-Flu Vaccines

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is considering ways of funding pandemic bird-flu vaccination in poor countries to ensure access for populations most at risk. The foundation wanted to become involved because many of the deaths from a flu pandemic will come from developing countries.

Homeland Security Council Issues Summary on National Strategy Implementation Plan

The United States is better positioned today to detect an outbreak of pandemic flu earlier, to support an international effort to contain the pandemic in its earliest stages, to limit the spread of a pandemic, and to save lives. The report includes all of the accomplishments the United States Government has made in the last year in regards to pandemic influenza. The full report is available [online](#).

Regional News

Region 2S: Operation Wildfire

On April 18, Region 2 South conducted a tabletop pandemic influenza exercise to test pre-established public information procedures for communication. This exercise involved the Region 2 South leadership and hospital Public Information Officers. As the scenario escalated through the World Health Organization (WHO) phases and federal response stages, participants identified various questions regarding communication procedures at both the local and state levels. Several issues were identified with the process used to formulate messages when interacting with the media. An After Action Report has been generated that contains the specific details on the issues. In Region 2 South, Operation Wildfire concluded on May 16 with a functional exercise where the Medical Coordination Center (MCC), mobile MCC, one Alternate Care Center (ACC), one Neighborhood Emergency Help Center (NEHC), and the Casualty Transport System (CTS) were all activated. A complete activation of the Modular Emergency Medical System (MEMS) occurred in the morning. Region 2 South is in the process of developing a comprehensive After Action Report from the lessons learned during the activation of all the MEMS components.



Oakland County: New Hotline Provides Mental Health Help

The Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority has created a Crisis and Resource Hotline for adults with mental illness in need of assistance. People can call the hot line, which opened for use Monday, if they or someone they know is in need of a mental health screening and assessment, counseling, crisis intervention or referrals to medical facilities. The hotline runs 24 hours a day every day. The public call-in number is (800) 231-1127.

Shiawassee County: Boxes of Medical Waste Found in River

Officials are searching for the source of large quantities of hazardous medical waste illegally dumped into the Shiawassee River upstream of Corunna. Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers and Shiawassee County's hazardous materials team were called in on July 6 after a paddler discovered a large number of red "sharps" boxes floating in the river. The biohazard boxes are designed to hold used needles and other contaminated medical waste.



The Shiawassee Special Response Team recovered forty-nine boxes containing thousands of used needles, lancets and medications in an area stretching from Goodall Road to downstream of the dam in downtown Corunna. The team also recovered individual needles and syringes that had floated free. According to a DNR officer, the dumping is believed to be an ongoing crime that started about a year ago

when people first found a few stray items near the dam off Shiawassee Street in Corunna. The DNR is working with local police on the criminal investigation. No public health advisories have been posted for the river except for a standing advisory against swimming at the dam because of strong undertows. However, Shiawassee County Health Department officials said swimming and full body contact is routinely discouraged anywhere in the river at all times. Anyone who finds any medical waste is advised not to touch it and to call 911 immediately.

Other News

Expanding Roles and Responsibilities Conference Is Success

On June 14, the Michigan Department of Community Health's Office of Public Health Preparedness held the "Expanding Roles and Responsibilities" conference, which was attended by nearly 400 participants. Conference speakers discussed evacuation and preparedness concerns for special populations, rescuing two Port City Authority Police Officers on September 11, and safety/situational awareness. All eight preparedness regions, the American Red Cross, Citizen Corps, Do 1 Thing, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact (MEMAC), Michigan Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and OPHP Programs (MI Volunteer Registry, Michigan Health Alert Network, Family Preparedness, and Pandemic Influenza) created education area displays. In a post-conference survey, the vast majority of conference participants (96%) rated the conference in the "excellent" or "good" categories.

Mass Fatality Conference Huge Success

The day-long conference featured presentations by representatives from across the public health sector. One of the four Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) trailers was on display at the conference. A second state resource known as MI-MORT – a team of skilled forensic and mortuary volunteers available to assist county medical examiners responding to mass fatality incidents once local resources have been exhausted – was also present. Evaluations from conference attendees have been uniformly positive and appreciative of the hard work that went into this conference. The Region video-recorded the conference and it will be provided as a DVD to our regional partners. Thanks again to all those who put so much work into this program!

Emergency Readiness Events for Lab Personnel

On June 20, Region 3, the Regional Lab, and Michigan Department of Community Health co-hosted a conference for hospital lab and other interested personnel at the Dow Event Center in Saginaw. Roughly fifty participants attended presentations on MEMS, BioThreats Old and New, Public Response to Chemical Terrorism and training on Packaging and Shipping requirements for infectious substances. The packaging and shipping training is also available via a self-paced CD, which will be available through the Regional Office.

Great Lakes Border Health Initiative's Annual Conference Is Huge Success

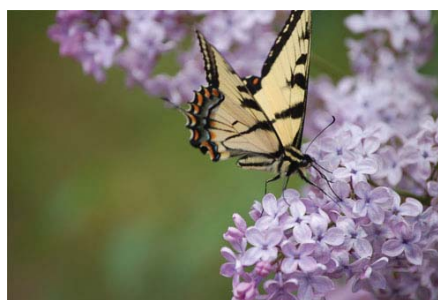
The fourth annual Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI) Conference was held on June 13-15, 2007 in Niagara Falls, New York. This year's conference, "Partnerships to Improve Identification of International Infectious Disease Issues", was held with a focus on international food safety and defense. It featured many high-profile speakers from the governmental and private sectors on topics ranging from the keynote addresses on food safety and regulation to breakout sessions on topics such as norovirus and botulism, cross-border communications, the role of the laboratory, plus an in-depth facilitated discussion about applying isolation and quarantine scenarios involving local tribes and First Nations. A tabletop exercise, facilitated by Donald Tillery and the University of Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness, was also held featuring deliberate E. coli contamination by self-proclaimed terrorists at a produce distribution center servicing Canadian and American food retailers. For more information regarding the GLBHI and slides from numerous presentations from this year's conference, please visit the [Border Health website](#).

Do You Know What Is in the OPHP Library?

The Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) contains general reference, public health-related, and healthcare/hospital-related resources related to preparedness. The Document Library of the Michigan Health Alert Network contains an up-to-date catalogue/list of all resources available for a three-week check-out. If you do not have access to the Document Library, or would like further information, please contact Jim Koval by email at kovalj@michigan.gov or by phone at (517) 335-9732.

Training & Education

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
July 23-25, 2007 9am-5pm	Combating Bioterrorism / Pandemics: Implementing Policies for Biosecurity The threats of bioterrorism and global pandemics pose new challenges for public health, law enforcement and national security agencies. All these agencies face new biosecurity priorities, including learning to collaborate with each other. Yet agencies have deeply embedded professional norms and organizational cultures, which resist change. MIT experts and affiliates explore the obstacles to implementation and strategies to overcome them. For more information visit their website .	Professional Institute MIT 35-433 77 Massachusetts Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139 T: (617) 253-2101
Jul. 25, 2007 8am-1:30pm	Basic Disaster Life Support Offered by Region 2S, this one-day course is designed to develop commonality of approach and language and to improve the care and coordination of response in WMD disaster and public health emergencies. The curriculum includes an overview of the "DI-S-A-S-T-E-R" paradigm, injuries and responses associated with different types of disasters, an overview of the publichealth system, and the psychosocial aspects of disasters. Participants are to register online .	RESA Auditorium 5454 Venoy Road Wayne, MI 48184
Jul. 31 – Aug. 3, 2007	Radiological Dispersion Device (RDD) Response This course is designed to put medical personnel, emergency planners and law enforcement professionals together to exchange ideas and learn more about the responses needed in case a "dirty bomb" is detonated in their communities. For more please see this link .	Oak Ridge Campus 210 Badger Avenue Oak Ridge, TN 37830
Aug. 27-28, 2007 7:15am-5:15pm	Pediatric Disaster Management Pediatric populations require a coordinated effort in both planning and clinical response. This conference provides an environment of collaborative learning, and is intended for those who play a role in the care and preparedness planning for children. Please see this document for more information and registration details.	DeVos Place 303 Monroe Ave. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503 T: (616) 742-6500



Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Oct. 9 Oct. 11 Oct. 30 Nov. 1 Nov. 7 Nov. 8 Nov. 14 Nov. 15	MDCH Immunization Conferences Conference brochures will be distributed during the first week of August. If you would like a copy of the conference brochure, send an e-mail message to franklinr@michigan.gov . Enter the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject field. You will be added to the list and a conference registration form will be emailed to you during the first week of August. Information about the conferences is also posted on the MDCH immunization website (look under the Provider Information section). Continuing education credits are available for both physicians and nurses. Registration will begin August 1.	Marquette Gaylord East Lansing Troy Kalamazoo Kalamazoo Detroit Ypsilanti



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